

IX. TRANSITION OF CHILDREN FROM PART C TO PART B PROGRAMS

It is the policy of the State of Iowa that children receiving services through Iowa's Early ACCESS/IDEA Part C, Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, experience a smooth and effective transition to Part B services. In keeping with Iowa's history of providing a seamless system for children eligible for special education from birth to age 21, the State of Iowa has created a rich network of services for children from birth to five years of age. The agencies responsible for providing special education services consist of the Iowa Department of Education, area education agencies (AEAs), and local education agencies (LEAs) in collaboration with the Iowa Departments of Human Services, Public Health, and Child Health Specialty Clinics.

The children birth to age three who are eligible for special education services have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and receive special education services through the AEA or LEA under the Part C regulations. In accordance with Iowa policy, AEAs convene a transition planning conference among the family, the IFSP service coordinator, LEA, AEA, and other appropriate providers at least 90 calendar days (at the discretion of all the parties, up to not more than 9 months) before the child's third birthday. The purpose for the transition conference is to establish a written transition plan in order to ensure a smooth and effective transition from Part C to Part B preschool or other appropriate services or as appropriate to exit Part C program.

Each agency shall establish policies and procedures to meet the requirements of IDEA and Iowa Administrative Rules for Part C transition services. By the third birthday of children eligible for special education, an individualized education program (IEP) will be developed and implemented under Part B regulations, including determination of the need for extended school year services during the summer in order to receive FAPE. Eligibility criteria for receiving special education services are consistent from birth to age 21.

The State of Iowa regularly provides technical assistance to multiple agencies, families, and early childhood personnel to facilitate smooth transitions throughout early childhood.

Legal References

Federal Requirements

- 20 USC 1414(d)(2)(B)..... Preschool Program
- 20 USC 1435(a)(10)(A)-(C) Requirements for a statewide intervention system
- 20 USC 1436(d) Individualized Family Service Plan
- 20 USC 1437(a)(9)..... State transition policies
- 20 USC 1412(a)(9)..... Requirements for a transition plan from Part C to preschool programs

- 34 CFR 300.121(c)..... FAPE for children beginning at age three
- 34 CFR 300.132 Transition from Part C to preschool programs
- 34 CFR 300.342 IEP/IFSP for children aged three through five
- 34 CFR 300.344 Transition services in the IFSP

Iowa Requirements

- Iowa Administrative Rules of Special Education
- 281-41.18Responsibilities of agencies
- 281-41.75Transition from Part C to Part B